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| <b>Notice of Allowability</b> | Application No.             | Applicant(s)        |
|                               | 10/657,428                  | WAFFAOUI EL, RACHID |
|                               | Examiner<br>My-Trang N. Ton | Art Unit<br>2816    |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to Tel. Int. 07/2/04.
  2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12.
  3.  The drawings filed on \_\_\_\_\_ are accepted by the Examiner.
  4.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    - a)  All    b)  Some\*    c)  None    of the:
      1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
      3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.
- Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**
5.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date 07/12/04.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

#### Attachment(s)

1.  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2.  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3.  Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 07/12/04
4.  Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5.  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6.  Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date 07/12/04.
7.  Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8.  Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9.  Other \_\_\_\_\_.

MY-TRANG NUTON  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

## **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Att. Waxler on 07/12/04.

The abstract has been amended as follow:

### **In the abstract**

Disclosed is a limiting amplifier for amplifying an input signal including at least first portions having a first amplitude and second portions having a second amplitude being lower than said first amplitude. The amplifier includes a first peak detector for detecting the current maximum value in the input signal. The amplifier also includes a second peak detector for detecting the current minimum value in the input signal. The amplifier also includes determining means for providing a first decision that a variation in the input signal is due to a variation in a first amplitude and/or a second amplitude, or a second decision that a variation in the input signal is due to a transition from a first portion to a second portion, a third decision that a variation in the input signal is due to a transition from a second portion to a first portion, and controlling means for either activating or inactivating one of the decreasing means and the increasing means based on the decision.

**In the drawings**

The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant: Figs. 1-4 have been labeled as the "Prior Art". In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

**Reasons for allowance**

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present invention is drawn to a limiting amplifier utilizing a first peak detecting means, a second peak detecting means, determining means, and controlling means recited in claims 1-12. None of the prior art disclosed or suggested to show the particular structure and/or the particular operation recited in these claims namely: the combination of all the details for "the first peak detecting means", the details for "the second peak detecting means", "determining means" and "the controlling means" as recited in claim 1; the combination of all the method steps as recited in claim 9.

The prior art references submitted by the applicant on IDS form received on 09/08/03 was reviewed and considered. These references appear to be the best references with respect to the claimed invention and closely matched most of the references found during the examiner's searches. However, as noted above, the combination of all the details for "the first peak detecting means", the details for "the second peak detecting means", "determining means" and "the controlling means" (claim 1); the combination of all the method steps as recited in claim 9 is not disclosed. Therefore, the claims are patentably distinct over all these prior art references of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to My-Trang N. Ton whose telephone number is 571-272-1754. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 a.m - 5:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy Callahan can be reached on 571-272-1740. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



MY-TRANG NUTON  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

July 12, 2004